



the Society of Behavioral Medicine

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SBM opposes Constraints on the Peer Review Process of Scientific Research

The Society of Behavioral Medicine (SBM), the largest interdisciplinary professional society in the United States dedicated to the promotion of the communication and integration of behavioral and biomedical approaches to health and illness, is extremely concerned about attempts by certain members of Congress and the Traditional Values Coalition to conduct an unprecedented review of National Institutes of Health (NIH) funded research grants. Grants that have been targeted for review include studies on HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted infections, sexual behavior, sexual orientation, substance abuse and behavioral health. SBM is concerned that this scrutiny is an attempt to curtail research on crucial public health and behavioral health issues that has enormous potential benefit for the health of the American people. We are also concerned about the implications of this scrutiny on the peer-review process used to determine what grants to support and fund.

The Society of Behavioral Medicine commits to join with the national community of scholars and scientific organizations to express deep concern about this threatening trend. It also affirms that NIH must support and fund the highest quality of research based on scientific merit--not political and ideological positions of special interest groups--through a science-based peer review process.